

*Oral Questions*

Premier Lougheed, this is government policy? Is that the policy of the government now?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, no policy position has been taken on this question by the government, but the Minister of Defence was speaking with courage as a westerner. I would hope the hon. member would have the same courage.

**Mr. Stanfield:** How many policies have you?

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**AIR TRANSPORT****ADVANCE BOOKING CHARTER REGULATIONS—REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE DECISION ON PRICES**

**Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Transport.

[Translation]

I would like to tell the minister that I do not always pay attention to what lies within his jurisdiction, but as he keeps giving general answers I am compelled most of the time to direct my questions to him.

[English]

In view of the fact the Canadian Transport Commission is still stalling on a decision with regard to charter prices, in view of the fact that under the present rules advance booking calls for a 90-day prebooking period in Canada, and in view of the fact all of this uncertainty regarding bookings on Canadian charter flights will drive about 300,000 Canadians to using foreign carriers operating from United States airports, would the Minister of Transport instruct the Canadian Transport Commission to come to an immediate decision on the matter of charter prices so that Canadian travellers can have some assurance with regard to their plans for this summer?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I read the report in a Toronto newspaper this morning. I regret to say it is unfounded. The policy on prices was established by the commission on February 1. The people who are going to Niagara now have been doing the same thing in the past. There is nothing new. The pricing policy has been established and is in force right now.

**Mr. Harney:** May I ask the minister whether the pricing policy has been announced to the Canadian travelling public?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I will have to check how the commission does it, but I know that the policy is in force and I know that the charter companies know about it.

**ADVANCE BOOKING CHARTER REGULATIONS—SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO KEEP BUSINESS IN CANADA**

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's reply to my question, as recorded on page 951 of *Hansard*, to the effect that he would like to have some experience in the implementation of the new

[Mr. Woolliams.]

advance booking charter regulations before recommending any changes, and also in view of the fact there is new evidence to the effect that the new regulations proposed by the Canadian Transport Commission will literally drive the air charter business south of the border, will the minister now take it upon himself to intervene and to recommend to the Canadian Transport Commission an amendment to the ABC regulations? Will he also take into consideration the representations made by the general public and the air charter industry?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** I do not know how I can consider false news as a basis for reconsidering the policy. A few moments ago I said that the news has no foundation and the people who are going south have been going there in the past in the same way.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Can the minister indicate to the House whether in fact he has received representations from the air charter industry and the travelling public rejecting and opposing the new ABC regulations, and will the minister take those representations into consideration so that the travelling public can be assured of reasonable charter travel?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I have not received any personally but I will check with the department and report to the House.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** In view of the fact that United States airlines are now imposing retaliatory action in so far as removing the primary rates policy as it relates to Canadian airlines is concerned, would the Minister of Transport also take this matter into consideration when reviewing the new ABC regulations?

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**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING—LEVEL AT WHICH USE OF GOVERNMENT CONTINGENCY PLANS JUSTIFIED**

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister a question which might give a little direction to the country as a whole. At what level would the government consider the rise in prices would justify use of the contingency plans about which he has been telling us since the days of John Young?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member would have to recall the way in which we were answering this question in the past. It is not necessarily defined by an absolute rate. It would be a rate which would put Canada in the situation where, on the one hand, we would be pricing ourselves out of world markets because our competitors would be doing so much better than us, which, as the hon. member knows, has not been the case, and, on the other hand, a rate at which we would be unable to satisfy the legitimate demands of those sections of the population that are not protected against rising costs.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** In view of the fact the Prime Minister could not answer the question, would he like to take this